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Humphries Family

Georgia Pioneers Vol VIII No 3

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Queries

C/71-1 (Mrs. Thos. E. Dilworth, 205 St. Clair Ave., Huntsville, Ala. 35801) WHITAKER - Need any info. on John Whitaker, b. 1760-70, presumably in N. C., 2nd wf., Susan Grayham. Ch: Nathan Jack, John, Crissie, Missie, Prissie, Nancy, Polly, Tempie, Winnie, children by first marriage. By second marriage: Elijah, Simon, William, James.

Believe he came from N. C., to Ga., to Tenn., to Ala. Listed in Jackson Co., Ala. 1830 census, age 60-70.

C/71-2 (Mrs. Jack Shelton, P. O. Box 225, Gonzales, Tex. 78629. HUMPHRIES-BISHOP-MANGRUM. Need names of pts. of Ezekiel Humphries, who lived in Halifax Co., N. C., m. Sarah (Sally) Bishop, dau. of Hardiman Bishop and Lucy Mangrum. Sarah's sister Ann m. Humphrey S. Camp, 2 Jan 1823.)

C/71-3 (Mrs. Gene Harris, 1404 Borger St., Plainview, Tex. 79072. HORNE. Riley Horne, b. 1800, N. C., and Hannah Shockley Horn, b. 1804, S. C., moved frm Polk Co., Tenn., to Tunnel Hill, Murray-Whitfield Co., Ga., in 1840's. Riley Horn died 1860's, Hannah d. 1880's. Ch: Napoleon Bonaparte, Harris Horace, Elkana, Samuel D., m. Harriet Bell, Ann Mariah m. Joseph Finley, Thomas, Felix G., and Charles. Wish to corresp. with anyone having info. on these people.

C/71-4 (Mrs. Everette Reynolds, 6200 Inwood Dr., Houston, Tex. 77027). AUBREY-AWBREY. Need info. on pts. of Rebecca Aubrey, m. Michael Dickson, 1810 Jackson Co., Ga. Rebecca believed to be dau. of Philip or Samuel Aubrey who were in Jackson Co., Ga., by 1805, perhaps earlier. Philip Aubrey not in 1820 Ga. Census. Samuel Aubrey d. c1819, Morgan Co., Ga. These Aubreys frm Newberry Co., S. C.

C/71-5 (Mrs. Betty Leazenby, 1217 Hunter Rd., Indianapolis, Ind., 46239. WHITAKER. Samuel Whitaker b. c1726, came to what is now Richmond Co., Ga. Need names of his wife and children. One son named Samuel m. Mary Graves. Samuel Jr., was R. S., and rec'd. bounty land of 287 1/2 a. in Franklin Co., Ga., b. 1753. Samuel appears as Samuel Whitacar in 1790 Richmond Co., Juror list. There are descendants still living in Richmond Co., Ga.

C/71-6 (Mrs. Grace Pardue, 1106 Havard St., Winnsboro, La. 71295) TURNER-SWAIN-BINGAMAN. Thos. Turner m. Charity Swain, dau. of John Swain, lived Stokes Co., N. C., 1800-1801. Their sons Thomas and John came to Feliciana Parish, La., perhaps by way of Mo. Thomas m. Charlotte Bingaman, dau. of Adam Bingaman, Wilkinson Co., Miss., 1827. Wish info and will xch.

C/71-7 (Mrs. John C. Rogers, Jr., 1028 Lindsey Dr., Rosenberg, Tex. 77471). ROGERS. John F. Rogers, age 35, Warren Co., Ga., 1850 census, wf. Matilda, age 40, son Cicero b. June 18, 1849, Warren Co., son John b. 1851, son Francis Marion b. 1852, both in Warren Co. Family in Climax, Decatur Co., Ga., 1870 census. Need names of pts., bros., sis., of John F. Rogers, and names of Matilda's parents.

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Mississippi Mc Bee Collection, Vol II
Book A-1

page 17 G. W. Humphries witness deed from Ebenezer Smith from Julius and Pliny Smith.

Clayborne County Marriages

David George Humphries and Mary Coburn by Jacob Rickhorn 12-20-1816

Tennessee The River Counties Vol 5, no 4

Dickson County Court minutes
June 1805 Term

John Humphries foreman of the grand jury

Ordered that Col. John Humphries be appointed surveyor.

Georgia Georgia Pioneers Vol VIII #2 (5-11)
1803 Tax List Jackson County
Capt Lindsey's District

Joseph Humphries

Uriah Humphries

1809 Tax List Jackson County

Capt Thomas Black's District

Joseph Humphries

Uriah Humphries

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January 27, 1995

Jean Strickland
Genealogy and Local History
Pascagoula Public Library
3214 Pascagoula St.
Pascagoula, MS 39567

Re: Humphries, MS 1840-1900

Dear Ms. Strickland:

Robert Lowery provided me your name via e-mail in response to a query I posted about my grandfather and his brothers. I am trying to research my family history and I have not had much success to date with HUMPHRIES.

My "post" to genealogical newsgroups have included:

A. My grandfather, Charles HUMPHRIES, was born 1845 in/on Gulf Coast, Harrison Co., MS. He joined the CSA in 1863 as member of Darden's Battery of Jefferson County, MS--a part of the Army of Tennessee. He was captured in Selma, AL in 1865 but escaped with G.B. Hammit enroute Ship Island POW camp. He was returning on furlough to Gulf Coast for a horse when the war ended. He later married, moved to Crystal Springs, MS (not necessarily in that order) and had a daughter, Evelyn Julius Humphries, Mother's name not yet known; possibly Julius? or Dulaney? Bried in Crystal Springs, MS.

His brothers: 1) Lynn Boyd Humphries (older) joined CSA in 1861 as member of Jefferson Co. Artillery (a part of the Army of Tennessee); he, too, was captured, but he did not escape. At end of war in 1865 he was enroute MS and spent the night near York Station, AL on the Hines farm. He met, fell in love and married Julia Hines; he stayed ther farming 'til his death in 1870. Julia then married a Mitchell and moved to Cisco, Eastland Co., TX.
2) John Adair Humphries. ?

B. My great grandfather, Crittenden REEVES, lived in Todd County KY. He was in Co. I, 2 KY Cavalry, CSA; afterwards he was in the KY Legislature and then was the County Court Clerk in Elkton and replaced by a brother on his death in 1895; he married Martha "Mattie" Ann MCELWAIN about 1875. They had three sons:

Robert DULANEY REEVES (12/19/1877- 1948)

Luke Pryor Blackbury REEVES (4/1879-1935) a traveling salesman bor Brown Shoes; never married.

Willis Long REEVES (b. 12/25/1884 -?); went to work for the Illinois Central railroad in Louisville, KY and later in Memphis, TN. He married Effie Lee ?

and two daughters:

Belle Caldwell REEVES (b. 3/4/1883-?) ??

Martha Virginia REEVES (?-1943) never married.

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***Robert DULANEY REEVES, my grandfather, married Evelynn HUMPHRIES, daughter of Charles HUMPHRIES (from Crystal Springs, Mississippi; his wife may have been Nancy Raburn or Elizabeth Call.

They had three daughters:

Phyllis Evelynn REEVES, m. John DART (New Orleans)
Jane McElwain REEVES, m. Albert J. GAUTIER (Los Angeles)
R. Nancy REEVES, m. William Behan DREUX

and one son:

Charles Humphries REEVES, m. Jane Atherton MARTIN (Stoughton MA). [my parents]

Additional information: Evelynn Humphries moved from Crystal Springs, MS to Elkton, KY about 1900 to live with relatives/friends(?) when her mother died. There she met and married.

I believe Charles, his wife, other Humphries are buried in Crystal Springs, MS but to date have not been able to travel there or locate the names of any cemetaries, genealogical or historical societies in that area.

Possibly you may be able to provide me with info, references or new resources to research. Thank you in advance.

Sincerely,


R. D. Reeves, II

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Gasdeed, Vol I

MEMOIRS OF MISSISSIPPI.

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Hull's family were of Welsh descent, and his father was a nephew of the celebrated Commodore Hull. This distinguished naval officer was born at Derby, Conn., March 9, 1775. In 1798 he became lieutenant in the new navy created by congress during the difficulties with France. He served with credit in the West Indies and Mediterranean, and on the outbreak of the War of 1812 was captain of the frigate Constitution. By skillful seamanship he escaped the close pursuit of five British vessels, and on August 10 he captured the British frigate Guerriere off Newfoundland, after a conflict in which the Guerriere was so severely cut up that Hull was forced to burn her. A gold medal was given to him by congress. He died at Philadelphia, February 13, 1843. Brodie Hull, the father of the subject of this sketch, was a prominent man in Virginia, a farmer and planter by occupation. He died in 1827, and four years later his widow removed to Marshall county, Miss., with her family and bought the plantation upon which the widow of William Hull now resides. She was an exemplary woman, who reared her family to become respectable members of society, and died in 1844, having been for many years a consistent member of the Baptist church. There is not a member of the family of Brodie Hull now living. Upon the death of his mother, William Hull inherited the old homestead, upon which he lived from the time of his birth till he died in 1890. He was educated at Washington college, at Lexington, Va., graduating in the class of 1844. Upon his return home he engaged in farming, and though he never had any political aspirations, he became quite prominent in the public affairs of the state, and was an active party worker, having been several times a delegate to state conventions, and represented his district as a delegate to the national convention at St. Louis when Grover Cleveland was renominated for the presidency. He was married in 1846 to Miss Mary Clayton, a daughter of Judge A. M. and Mary W. (Thomas) Clayton. (See biographical sketch of Judge Clayton, appearing elsewhere in this work.) They have had born to them eight children—five sons and three daughters—three of whom are living: Mary W., wife of John D. Martin, a well-known lawyer of Memphis; Elizabeth, wife of Rice Fant, of Holly Springs; and Arthur W., the only son, who was educated at Oxford university. At the time of his death Mr. Hull was the owner of three thousand two hundred acres of land, most of it under cultivation. He was one of the most successful planters in northern Mississippi before the war, and was the owner of one hundred slaves. His family has always and justly been regarded as one of the first in this part of the state or country. Mr. Hull was liberal in his support of all enterprises and movements having in view the enhancement of the public weal. Since his death his widow and her children have lived on the beautiful homestead where he lived and died, and one of the sons has met with marked success in her management of the plantation.

G. Wilson Humphreys is one of the oldest and most successful planters, as well as one of the oldest settlers of Claiborne county. He was born on the plantation on which he is now residing (known as Oakland) September 16, 1819, being a son of David G. Humphreys, who was born May 17, 1794, and died January 11, 1871, and grandson of G. W. Humphreys, who was born in South Carolina, March 23, 1771, and died December 15, 1843. The father of the latter was Colonel Ralph Humphreys, who was also a South Carolinian, and served as a colonel in the Revolutionary war, afterward receiving the pension of a colonel, the last money he received being spent in the purchase of a clock which is now in possession of the subject of this sketch. The first of the family to come to America were three brothers who came from England in 1632 (for a further history of whom see sketch of Governor Humphreys). Soon after the close of the Revolutionary war Ralph Humphreys went with his regiment to Michilimackinac, where a fort had been established, where he remained several years, leaving his wife in South

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Carolina. She sold their plantation there, took her negroes and emigrated to east Tennessee, sailing down the Tennessee, Ohio and Mississippi rivers landing at the famous Grindstone Ford landing of the north fork of the Bayou Pierre river. The country was under the Spanish governor, Gayoso at that time, and from him Mrs. Humphreys secured a large tract of land. Soon after this her husband obtained a furlough, and the long and toilsome journey to be with his family for a short time was made on horseback, during which time, no doubt, he suffered many privations and hardships. A few months after reaching his family he sickened and died, being buried at Grindstone Ford. He was of a brave and fearless disposition, and possessed much resolution and firmness. His widow, who was much younger than himself was rich and beautiful, was left with one son, George Wilson, the grandfather of the subject of this sketch. She afterward married Col. Daniel Burnett, a Spanish officer, and one of the most distinguished men of the territory at that time. He was a member of the territorial legislature until his death, and was strongly talked of for governor. He was a man of ability and took an active part in political matters, holding all the offices from magistrate to president of the senate, being widely known throughout the entire state. While serving in the War of 1812 he was at the battle of New Orleans, making a brave and faithful soldier. He died and is buried at Grindstone Ford. He and his wife lived to a ripe old age, she surviving him several years, and now sleeps by his side. George Wilson Humphreys grew to manhood on the plantation that is still owned by G. Wilson Humphreys. He was given excellent educational advantages, owned a fine library and took great pride in keeping himself well posted and up with the times. Although he was not an active politician he served in the state legislature for some time, and was an earnest member of the A. F. & A. M., he and one other member, being the only ones of the family that ever united with that order. Although not a member of any church, he believed in the doctrine of the Campbellites, and was very charitable and liberal with his means, and a leading projector of one of the first academies of this county. He organized a company, of which he was made captain, and was a participant in the battle of New Orleans. His financial enterprises were prosperous and he became a wealthy planter. He was married to Sarah, daughter of Capt. David Smith, who came from her native state of Tennessee to Mississippi in her girlhood, settling near Clinton. Her marriage with Mr. Humphreys was consummated January 17, 1792, a sister of hers marrying Hiram J. Reynold, fourth governor of the state of Mississippi.

To Captain Humphreys and his wife a large family of children were born, three sons and three daughters living to maturity and marrying, the rest dying in childhood. Mrs. Humphreys was born on the 19th of January, 1776, and died December 20, 1817, having been an earnest member of the Methodist Episcopal church, as were most of the Humphreys. She was an ideal wife, mother and friend and for her many noble and Christian traits of character she was loved by all. David G. Humphreys, her son, started in life at the bottom of the ladder, but by hard work and careful industry he amassed a fortune, being at one time the owner of forty thousand acres of land. He devoted his time strictly to his planting operations and as a reward for his faithfulness to duty accumulated ample means for his declining years. He held no public office, but at one time were a director of the Grand Gulf Railroad Banking company. He was also a patron of education and was one of the founders of the Port Gibson female college, which was first called the Port Gibson academy, it being afterward sold at sheriff's sale, he with the board purchasing it and giving it to the Methodist Episcopal conference. Later it was again sold by the sheriff, when he purchased it himself and gave it to the Methodist Episcopal conference of Mississippi. He was an active worker in the Methodist Episcopal church, being one of the heaviest contributors toward

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building up the Methodist Episcopal church of Port Gibson; was very charitable, and as he always endeavored to follow the teachings of the golden rule, he won the respect, good will and love of all who knew him. He was married to Miss Mary Cobun, a native of this county, a descendant of an early settler of this region, Samuel Cobun, Sr. She was born July 31, 1794, and died July 19, 1874, an earnest Christian and a noble and charitable lady. She bore her husband five sons and two daughters, all of whom grew to maturity, with the exception of the eldest son and daughter who died when young. G. Wilson Humphreys, the immediate subject of this sketch, was next to the eldest of his parents' family, and in this county was reared and educated, his first knowledge of books being obtained at home. After attending Oakland college one year he entered Augusta college of Kentucky, from which institution he graduated in August, 1839, after which he returned home and looked after his father's business for a number of years. He then began studying law in Transylvania university of Lexington, Ky., and while in this institution was a classmate of General Blair, James Clay and Chief Justice Divine, who died in Texas in 1883. He graduated in 1843, after which he returned home and was soon after married to Miss Catherine B. Prince, a native of this county, born August 24, 1825, and a graduate of Port Gibson female college. She was a most faithful wife and mother, and was very conscientious in the discharge of every duty. She united with the Methodist Episcopal church at the same time as her husband (soon after their marriage), and was a faithful worker in the same until her death, which occurred November 24, 1870. During the war she was president of the ladies' aid society, and the clothing which was prepared for the soldiers was made on the plantation on which Mr. Humphreys is now living and was contributed by his father. To Mr. and Mrs. Humphreys seven children were born, all but one of whom living to be grown: Benjamin, who died October 7, 1878, of yellow fever, at the age of twenty years, eight months and twenty days, was a student in the Kentucky military institute at Frankfort, and was a very brilliant and promising young man. William P. was born on the 9th of November, 1845, and was educated in the Port Gibson academy. He was a member of Captain Buck's company, Colonel Mayburn's cavalry regiment, and was accidentally shot while on the march to attack Natchez, under Gen. Wirt Adams, and died from the effects of the wound November 6, 1863. Catherine B. was born December 29, 1863, and died September 16, 1870, having been educated in Port Gibson female academy and the Nazareth school of Kentucky. She was married to F. F. Myles, son of Dr. Myles, of Port Gibson, and bore him one daughter, who is now at Mrs. Blake's school in New Orleans. Mary Cobun was born August 7, 1860, and died September 13, 1863. Those that are living are David George who was born February 18, 1847, and was educated at Port Gibson academy, Greenboro, Ala., and in the University of Mississippi, at Oxford. He was with General Forrest in Tennessee during the Civil war; Samuel C., who received the same advantages as his brother, was born March 4, 1849; Bayless E. was born November 23, 1851. The sons of Mr. Humphreys live on adjoining plantations, David on the Hermitage place, Bayless on the Oaklawn plantation, and Samuel C., who is on the Ashland farm, all well-to-do and industrious and substantial citizens. Mr. Humphreys has one of the finest libraries in the county, consisting of many rare volumes of great value, and was the owner of Audubon's works, now out of print. Many of his happiest hours are spent in his library, but he is also very fond of field sports, and is considered a good shot. He is a fluent and intelligent conversationalist and is considered by all to be that noblest work of God—an honest man.

Benjamin Humphreys is a native-born resident of Claiborne county, Miss., and as such is looked upon with esteem and respect by those who know who and what he is. He has been

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an important factor in the growth and prosperity of this section ever since he attained manhood, and is a true type of the progressive and enterprising Southern gentleman. He was born in the month of February, 1827, being the fourth in a family of nine children—seven sons and three daughters—three of the family now living, born to David George and Mary (Cobun) Humphreys, a full account of whom is given in the sketch of G. Wilson Humphreys. The parents were married in 1820, and were accounted among the wealthiest citizens of the county, their home, which was beautiful and attractive, being the delight of the many friends who gathered about them. They are now deceased and their remains are resting in the Hermitage, in Claiborne county. Benjamin Humphreys obtained his scholastic education in Centenary college, a Methodist institution, and being an apt pupil he made rapid progress in his studies. Later he fitted himself for the medical profession but as he had inherited wealth, he found that his time was fully occupied in properly caring for his estates, and he accordingly relinquished a professional life. He was married on the 6th of November, 1850, to Miss Mary Scott Jefferies, at Serogy the old family homestead of the latter, and in time their union was blessed in the birth of nine children—one son and eight daughters: Catherine Flynn (deceased), was the wife of Joseph Brown, a nephew of Gov. Albert Brown, of Mississippi; Mary Cobun is the wife of Samuel Briscoe, nephew of General Briscoe, of Vicksburg, Miss.; Priscilla Shelby, was educated in Port Gibson college and resides with her parents; Bliss Prince received her education in Brookhaven female college, and is an excellent musician; and David George, who makes his home with his parents, has a good practical education, and is devoting his attention to planting. Mrs. Humphreys is a lady of very superior mental endowments, and in social life she is highly esteemed for her rare conversational powers and winning and agreeable manner. She is devoted to her family, enters into all the plans and schemes of her children, and has a decided taste for music and the fine arts. She was born June 30, 1830, and in her early girlhood received her education under an English tutor, taking the same heavy studies, such as Latin, Greek and mathematics, as her brother, and as her mind was clear and well poised she became a finished scholar. Her benevolent principles are well known, and by her generosity and hospitality she wins many friends and rarely loses them. Warmly espousing the cause of the South in the Civil war, Mr. Humphreys enlisted as a volunteer in the Confederate army in 1861, and was chosen second lieutenant of the Sixteenth Mississippi infantry volunteers, from which rank, by gallant conduct, he was afterward promoted to captain of company B, of his regiment, for those around him recognized in him the genius to command, and as a faithful and efficient officer he was unsurpassed. He was in Stonewall Jackson's brigade, but was transferred to Hughes' battalion as major, being neither wounded nor captured. In politics he has been an active and efficient member of the democratic party, but exercises his right of franchise for the best interests of his country. As a business man he has been successful and prosperous. Always practical, he adapted himself readily to the altered conditions of Southern life produced by the war and the abolition of slavery; and adjusting his business habits and methods to meet the requirements of the new regime, he has made headway and progress where so many who were successful planters under the old regime have failed. He and his family spend a part of their summers at the seaside each year, but the most of their days are spent at their pleasant home, and among their numerous friends in Port Gibson. Mrs. Humphreys' old homestead, Vaucluse, located four miles from Port Gibson, comprises a fine tract of land. This is one of the typical Southern homes, so well known in song and story, and was one of the gayest resorts for the young generation in the palmy days of the South.

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Gov. Benjamin G. Humphreys (deceased) is well known in English history. The progenitors of the name in the United States came to the colonies long before the Revolutionary war, and here its members have multiplied and scattered throughout the land. Unquestionably, inasmuch as the name is a peculiar one, all those possessing it have a common origin. From an examination of heraldry among the English people it is learned that the family was early divided into six branches, each one of which had a special coat of arms, all of which may be seen in the Herald office at London, where they have been since 1340. All these coats of arms, which differ in minor details, show a general similarity and a common origin, and unquestionably originated during the crusades, because all are surmounted by a cross, in fact, the family name has been traced directly back to the time of Peter the Hermit, in the eleventh century. From that time down to the present, hundreds of the best citizens of this and other lands have held this honorable name. Among the pioneers who settled in Claiborne county was Col. Ralph Humphreys, who moved from Hampshire county, Va., in a flatboat in the spring of 1788 down the Monongahela, Ohio and Mississippi rivers to Natchez. On the 10th day of September of that year he located in what is now Claiborne county, on Bayou Pierre at Grindstone Ford. He had two sons: George Wilson and Ralph, the latter of whom was killed accidentally when a lad of fourteen years. The other son, George Wilson Humphreys, in due time married Miss Sarah Smith, daughter of Maj. David Smith, who afterward distinguished himself in the Creek (Indian) war at Talladega and at New Orleans during the War of 1812, and for his conspicuous services was honored by the legislature of Mississippi by having one of the counties of the state named for him. Major Smith was a native of South Carolina and of German Huguenot extraction. Governor Humphreys was of Celtic origin and belonged to the special branch now known as Welch. His ancestors, during the early invasions of England, were driven from Wales and forced to settle in the north of Ireland. Here one of his ancestors married a Scotch lady named Montgomery, and by her reared a family who distinguished themselves in opposing the English "orders in council." This led to strong restrictive measures against them by the officers of the crown, and they were forced to immigrate to the colony of Virginia, where in 1776, in common with the colonists, they took up arms against the mother country to secure their honor and independence. From this particular branch of the Humphreys family have descended three distinct lines of pioneers, who have penetrated all parts of the West and Southwest. Alexander and David Humphreys settled in Kentucky, Perry W. Humphreys in Tennessee, Ralph Humphreys in Mississippi, John and Alexander Humphreys in Louisiana. None of these arose to any great eminence, but all were sober, industrious, sturdy and honest pioneers. Some have adorned the bench in their localities, some have graced legislative halls, and some have expounded the gospel of Christ from the pulpit. Ralph Humphreys, the great-great-grandfather of Governor Humphreys, married a Miss Walker, a near relative of Gen. Felix Walker and Judge Samuel Walker, of New Orleans. Ralph Humphreys, the grandfather of Governor Humphreys, attained the rank of colonel in the Revolutionary war. He married Miss Agnes Wilson, a niece of James Wilson, of Pennsylvania, a member of the convention which framed the constitution for the United States. In 1793 George Wilson Humphreys removed from Grindstone Ford onto a piece of land on the north side of Bayou Pierre, known as the Hermitage, which particular tract of land had been obtained by Mrs. Humphreys from the Spanish government.

Gov. B. G. Humphreys was born August 26, 1808, at the Hermitage, but in 1811 was taken by his parents to the bank of the Mississippi, just below Milliken's Bend; but two years later the family returned to the Hermitage, where the mother died December 20, 1817. Our

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subject, then a lad of nine years, was soon afterward sent to his grandfather Smith's, in Kentucky, where he attended school at Russellville and vicinity. He continued in school there and in Mississippi until 1821, when he was sent to Morristown, N. J., by water on the Gulf and Atlantic, and after twenty-four days landed on Staten Island, and soon after went to Morristown. He was placed in the family of William F. King, of that city, where he remained three years, spending his vacations in New York city with his guardian, Dr. Hunt. He took a preparatory course, expecting to enter the college in the fall of 1825, but was sent for by his father in 1824, and thus ended his school life in New Jersey. Instead of returning home by water he went by stage across the country via Cincinnati, Ohio. Upon reaching Mississippi his father placed him in a store at Port Gibson, where he worked as a clerk, and during the succeeding winter secured the appointment as cadet of West Point through the assistance of Hon. Thomas N. Williams, then United States senator from Mississippi. In April, 1825, in company with Dr. Joe Moore, he went up the river to Wheeling, Va., and crossed the Allegheny mountains to Washington city, thence to Wilmington, Del., where he entered school to prepare himself for the examination of entry at West Point. He reviewed his studies under W. John Bullock in six weeks, and then started for West Point, where he arrived in June, 1825, and creditably passed the examination. He was admitted to the class of Joseph E. Johnston, Robert E. Lee and a number of others who afterward distinguished themselves on both sides during the great Civil war. He was a diligent student, and greatly enjoyed the routine and discipline of that famous institution. However, he became involved in a Christmas frolic, which ended in a riot, for which breach of discipline he, with thirty-eight others, was expelled from the institution. This unfortunate event the Governor always afterward regretted. In May, 1827, he returned to Mississippi, where he entered upon the duties of an overseer on his father's plantation, relieving him of all care. This he continued for several years, in the meantime taking great interest in books and athletic sports. He made a particular study of law, in which his active intellect took the greatest delight. On March 15, 1832, he married Miss Mary McLaughlin, eldest daughter of Hon. Dugald McLaughlin, of Marion county, and immediately thereafter settled on Big Black river in Claiborne county, and entered upon the labors of a planter. His wife died March 17, 1835, leaving two children: Thomas McLaughlin, who died at the age of four years, and Mary Douglass, who grew to womanhood and married Isaac Stamps, a nephew of Jefferson Davis. Mr. Stamps entered the Confederate army during the late war, arose to the rank of major, and was killed at Gettysburg while gallantly leading his command into action. His widow resides in New Orleans, where she is a prominent teacher in the public schools of that city. After the death of his wife Governor Humphreys returned to the Hermitage, and for a time lived with his father. In 1837 he was prevailed upon to become an independent candidate for the legislature from his county, and after an exciting canvass was triumphantly elected, and took his seat in 1838. In 1839 he became the whig candidate for the state senate, and was elected by the narrow margin of two votes. At the expiration of his term he returned to his plantation and, as he thought, from public life. He was a strong advocate and member of the old whig party, as were so many of the best minds in the South during that early period. December 3, 1839, he married Miss Mildred Hickman Maury, eldest daughter of Hon. James Harvey Maury, of Port Gibson. Judge Maury was a native of Kentucky and a descendant of the famous De La Fontaine family of France.

In the fall of 1840 Mr. Humphreys returned with his family to his plantation on the Big Black river. Six years later he bought a tract of land in the Yazoo valley on Roebuck lake, in Sunflower county, and for a time was engaged in fitting it up for habitation. He here

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passed a happy life with his family, in reading and in following his hounds, of which he kept a fine pack, and took the greatest interest in the sport. When the late war broke out he entered the service early in 1861, and joined a company formed in Sunflower county and was elected captain. He was ordered to Virginia, and soon after, in September, was promoted to colonel of the Twenty-first Mississippi regiment, and was assigned to the army of Virginia under Gen. Joseph E. Johnston. He continued to command this regiment until the battle of Gettysburg, where he was promoted on the field for gallantry in action to a brigadier-generalship. Thus he served until he was wounded at Berryville, Va., September 1, 1864, by a gunshot wound in the breast, which disabled him for a considerable period. He returned to Mississippi late in the fall of 1864, and on February, 1865, received orders to take charge of a military district in southern Mississippi, which he did, and while thus engaged the war ended. Mr. Humphreys was the first governor elected after the war, and was inaugurated in October, 1865, succeeding Gov. W. L. Sharkey, and held the office until the fall of 1868, when he was ousted by Generals McDowell and Ames, the latter of whom was appointed military governor. He remained in Jackson for some time, doing an insurance business for several years. In 1869 he removed to Vicksburg and continued the same business until 1877, when he went to his plantation in Le Flore county, a new county recently formed of part of Sunflower and Carroll counties, where he died, December 20, 1882, at the age of seventy-four years. He had been an earnest Christian for many years, and loved the house of God, loved the friendship of good people and loved all good things. As a legislator and ruler, his people's praise is his monument. As a patriot and soldier his fame will stand immortal on the page of history. As a Christian he rests from his labors and his works do follow him. His last union resulted in the birth of ten children: James Maury, who died September 3, 1851; Benjamin George, who died July 25, 1852; Sarah Smith, who died at Port Gibson September 25, 1845; Julian M., died July 12, 1849; Lucinda S., who died of yellow fever at Warrenton, September 2, 1855; and a son who died when quite young, and three sons who are still living: John Barnes Humphreys, who is a resident of Carrollton. He was married in Holmes county, Miss., in 1878, to Miss Ella Hoskins, a daughter of Capt. John S. Hoskins, and a native of Holmes county, where she was also reared and educated; they have four children: Benjamin George, Sallie Barnes, James Maury, Mildred Maury and a son, John Barnes, who died in November, 1890, at the age of seven years. Next came a daughter, Elizabeth Fontaine, who married James C. Bertron, in 1878, and died the same year. The next son of Governor Humphreys is Dr. David Smith Humphreys, who resides in Leoto, Washington county, Miss. He was married to Miss Sallie Hoskins, daughter of Capt. John S. Hoskins, and a sister of his brother's wife, and by her is the father of two daughters: Sallie Walton and Mary Stamps. The last son of Governor Humphreys is Benjamin George Humphreys, who married Miss Louisa Yerger, a daughter of William Yerger, of Greenville, Miss. She was born in Jackson, Miss., but was reared and educated in Greenville. They have one son, William Yerger. The widow of Governor Humphreys and their surviving children are earnest members of the Presbyterian church, of which she has been a member for many years, although the Governor was one of the pillars of the Methodist Episcopal church for an equally long period.

Dr. D. S. Humphreys, physician, Leota Landing, Miss. Dr. Humphreys' great-grandmother and her two sons, Ralph and George Wilson Humphreys, came down the Ohio and Mississippi rivers in 1786, and settled on Bayou Pierre (now in Claiborne county), Miss. Her husband, Ralph Humphreys, was a colonel in the Revolutionary war, and afterward came to Mississippi, where he joined his family. He died the following year, and his son, Ralph,

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died about the same time. The other son, George Wilson Humphreys, named after his mother's family, married a Miss Smith, and located at Grindstone Ford, Claiborne county. Afterward he settled and cleared the Hermitage plantation, which is still owned by his descendants. His wife died about 1819. By his marriage he became the father of a large family of children, Benjamin G., the father of subject, being the seventh in order of birth. He was born at Hermitage plantation August 26, 1808. He was but eleven years of age at the time of his mother's death, and he then went to Georgetown, Ky., to attend school, riding a pony all the way. He subsequently attended school at Morristown, N. J., and still later entered West Point, where he graduated. He was twice married, first to Miss McLaughlin, who died, leaving two children: Thomas and Mary, and afterward to Miss Mildred H. Maury, who was originally from Tennessee. When but four years of age, or in 1826, she came with her father, Judge Maury, to Port Gibson, Miss. After his marriage, Mr. Humphreys was actively engaged in planting, and this occupation carried on until his death. He served several times in both branches of the state legislature prior to the war, and at the breaking out of that memorable struggle he was strongly Union in his sentiments. Notwithstanding this, when Mississippi seceded, he went with her and organized the Sunflower guards of Sunflower county, where he owned an estate. He entered the army as captain, and afterward was made colonel of the Twenty-first Mississippi regiment, and later brigadier-general of the brigade. He was wounded at the battle of Perryville in the army of northern Virginia, and was not in active service afterward. In 1865 he was elected governor, and re-elected in 1867; but was dispossessed from office by Federal military authority the same year. He subsequently lived a life of retirement on his plantation, Itta Bena, until his death, on December 23, 1882. He was a member of the Methodist church, and a Christian in every sense of the term. He left a widow and four children: Mary (widow of Capt. Isaac Davis Stamp, who commanded company I, Twenty-first Mississippi regiment, was killed at the battle of Gettysburg, and he was a nephew of Jefferson Davis), J. B. (married Miss Ella Hoskins, a native of Mississippi, and is now engaged in planting in Le Flore county), Dr. David S. (subject), and Benjamin G. (married Miss Louise Yerger, daughter of William Yerger, of Greenville, Miss., a place settled by his father in 1848, and which still belongs to his heirs). Dr. David S. Humphreys was born in Claiborne county, Miss., in 1860, and received his literary education in the University of Mississippi. In 1880 he began the study of medicine, and graduated at Tulane university, La., in 1883. After this he began practicing at Itta Bena, Le Flore county, but moved to Leota in February, 1888, and has continued practicing his profession since. He is progressive in his ideas, and has met with flattering success. He was married, in 1886, to Miss Lallie Hoskins, of Lexington, Miss., and daughter of Capt. J. S. Hoskins, one of the old settlers of Holmes county. The fruits of this union are three children: Sallie Walton, Mary Stamps and D. S., Jr. Dr. and Mrs. Humphreys are members of the Presbyterian church, and the Doctor is a member of the Masonic fraternity and the Knights of Honor.

Col. John Cobun Humphreys was born in Claiborne county, Miss., on his father's Hermitage plantation, June 8, 1821. His father cleared the primeval forest and canebrake from the land, and his early days were cast amid a hardy race of pioneers. Essentially agricultural through a long line of ancestry, his boyhood fell amid the struggles of his father with poverty and the environment of an early settler, in laying the foundation of an after princely fortune. Early taught the principles of economy and industry, by the hardy training of early life, he ripened into a manhood rich with manly virtues. He lived at a period that was the border line between the stern, stalwart virtues of the pioneer and the after op-

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lent ease of a country grown wealthy. He illustrated the nobility of the one, while able to enjoy the leisure and elegance of the other. Bred of a people whose latchstring hung on the outside of the door, his name became a synonym for generosity and hospitality. Far and near, those who knew John Cobun Humphreys, knew that his heart was in his hand. He was educated in Kentucky and graduated with distinction at a time when an honor at college was no idle term. He afterward took a course of law at the University of Virginia, passing the course with ease to his diploma. Returned from college shades to the sterner walks of life, he spent a few years with horn and hound and gun, being a superb sportsman, and then married Sarah Stuart, of Jefferson county, daughter of James Stuart. The fruit of this union was six children: David George, Kate Cobun, Moreau Stuart, John Cobun, James Leon and Blount Stuart. Of those three are living: David George, Kate Cobun (now Mrs. L. J. Butler) and Moreau Stuart. Although a graduate of law, the inherited instinct for agriculture prevailed, and he launched his ardent nature with tireless energy and enthusiasm into the business of a cotton planter. Here his success was commensurate with an exceptionally broad and active brain, and at the breaking out of the war he was master of a large fortune in cotton, land and slaves. Let it be said to his memory that the genial heart that beat with so much kindness and gentleness to mankind at large was especially considerate and forbearing toward these wards of his authority, these humble charges upon his time and care. No master was ever kinder to his slaves, no slave had a more genial master. In politics he was originally a whig, but afterward yielded allegiance to the democratic party, and was to the last a stanch democrat. On sectional questions an ultra Southern man—for the union under the constitution—but otherwise a strong advocate of secession. In support of these principles, when the war came, as a logical sequence, he placed all he had at the disposal of his country, and a Confederate soldier he looked upon as one of his family. He organized a regiment of state troops, but owing to the invalid condition of his wife was not able to engage in active service. At the battle of Port Gibson he was taken prisoner, and from that time until the close of the war he was confined on Johnson's Island, Ohio. Here in this prison family, in the long weary days of confinement, amid the bravest and best the Confederacy had, with high and low alike, his name was never mentioned save with affection; and those who had the privilege to know him best, learned to love him most, and it is probable that few left this prison more generally known and more cordially loved than this big, broad and generous heart. What was his was always his fellow-prisoner's, and the open-handed generosity, big-hearted sympathy and kindness that had made him a universal favorite at home, won the undying love of these brave and gallant Confederate hearts, in the long, weary prison "days that try men's souls." Such was the universal testimony of every prison-mate who learned to know him at Johnson's Island. After the war he devoted himself to cotton planting in the endeavor to rebuild the wreck war had made of his fortune. Deprived of fortune, his buoyant nature bore him up amid trial and difficulties, amid all the exasperating environments of the reconstruction era. He lived to see his family grown and educated—the great ambition of his life. What was his was theirs, and all was made to contribute to their happiness, for he never thought or cared for self. Self-sacrifice and self-abnegation were his great and chief and most ennobling characteristics; and never a man lived more absolutely for his family. With an exceptionally vivacious temperament and brilliant power to entertain, his conversation was the charm of every company and accompanied by an exhaustless flow of genial *bon homme* spirits, and his society was at once the attraction and delight of every circle. He died while attending a Mississippi valley and river convention in St. Louis, Mo., December 5, 1875, and there then ceased to beat a heart filled with a generosity, a charity and a human-

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ity as broad and as cōextensive as his fellowmen. He was buried at his old home, and amid the blessings and affectionate remembrance of all his family, sleeps forever. Sarah Stuart was born February 27, 1825, and was married to John C. Humphreys February 21, 1844. Mrs. Sarah Humphreys died February 4, 1863. She was the daughter of James Stuart, of Jefferson county, and was born at the old Stuart homestead, near Fayette. She was the mother of six children. She was a woman of superior intelligence, well educated and a great reader. Her life was devoted to her family, and with tireless and ceaseless effort she clung to the lifework of rearing her children. In every relation of life she was loyal and faithful—wife, mother and friend. She rests beside her husband at Glen Sade. D. George Humphreys, the eldest child, was born in Jefferson county, Miss., at the old Stuart homestead, his mother's childhood home, December 13, 1844. His childhood was passed at his father's old home, Glen Sade, near Port Gibson, and his early education was received there. He was afterward a student at Prof. W. H. N. Magruder's collegiate academy at Baton Rouge, and was at school at the fall of New Orleans. He at once returned home and joined the army at seventeen. His first service was as a scout for Hoskins' battery, stationed at Grand Gulf to fire upon passing transports of the enemy.

After one of the attacks on some passing boats, the Federal fleet steamed up and landed a battalion of troops and burned Grand Gulf, and this force, under Lieutenant De Kay of General Williams' staff, marched out into the adjacent country. A short distance out the scouts met them. Humphreys was in advance, and first to see the enemy. With his father's old deer gun, at five paces he delivered his fire, and Lieutenant De Kay fell, mortally wounded by a full charge of buckshot. His last words, as he saw the scout, were "Forward! Come up men!" He was a brave Federal officer. This force then returned to their boats. As Lieutenant De Kay's cortege was passing along the streets of New Orleans, a lady of the city, Mrs. Phillips, happened to laugh, whereupon she was arrested by order of General Butler and imprisoned on Ships Island. Lieutenant De Kay's chief, General Williams, was shot from his horse at the battle of Baton Rouge, by a Confederate soldier, who cut his silk scarf in two, and sent half of it to the scout who killed De Kay. In general orders for gallantry on the field, Humphreys was appointed by Col. Henry Hughes sergeant-major of his regiment, known as Hughes' legion. This command was ordered to Port Hudson, and under Powers and Logan operated there outside of the fort until its surrender. Afterward it was assigned to Forrest, and remained with him until the close of the war as the Fourth Mississippi cavalry, following that doughty trooper to the end. At the close of the war Humphreys attended college at Greensboro, Ala., and afterward graduated in law at Oxford, Miss., under L. Q. C. Lamar. He returned home and adopted and is now engaged in the pursuits of his ancestors—cotton planting. His life has been devoted to the effort to save the remnant of his father's estate left by the war, which effort, that this estate remains still intact amid the wreck and ruin of so many around it, may be said to have been rewarded with more than ordinary success. Kate Cobun Humphreys (now Mrs. L. J. Butler) was the only daughter. She was born August 26, 1846, at her father's old home, Glen Sade, near Port Gibson. She was educated in Port Gibson, her closing days at school being spent amid exciting scenes of hostilities, that at and near her home were of the nature of border warfare on neutral territory—a section occupied by Confederates then by Federals—and held by neither. After the battle of Port Gibson, when a Yankee attempted to take her carriage horses, she pluckily held to them and saved them. She married L. John Butler, a son of Rev. Zebulon Butler, of Port Gibson, and has four children: John Humphreys, Ruth, Sadie and Mary Kate Butler. Her life has been one of loyal devotion to family, as will be

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invested where it would do the most good. His wife, whose maiden name was Priscilla Shelby, was a daughter of Col. Evan Shelby, whose brother was for some time governor of Kentucky. To Mr. and Mrs. Jefferies the following family, in time, gathered about their hearthstone: Catherine (deceased) was the wife of William Prince (also deceased), who was a planter and a resident of Lake Washington, Miss.; Sarah (deceased) was married to Berry Prince, who was a well-to-do planter but is now deceased; Nathaniel comes next in order of birth; Letitia (deceased) was the wife of Joseph Davenport, who was a planter of Claiborne county, Miss., and is now dead; Evan (deceased) was married to Sarah Terry, and was a planter of this county, and Priscilla, the last of the family, died unmarried. Nathaniel Jefferies, whose name heads this biography, was born in Clarksville, Tenn., in 1802, and his first knowledge of books was acquired in the old log cabin schoolhouse of pioneer days. He possessed a fine and susceptible mind, and being fond of his books, notwithstanding the many drawbacks with which he had to contend he became a learned man, and throughout a well spent life was a stanch friend of educational institutions of all kinds. He aided in the purchase of a female academy at Port Gibson, presented it to the Methodist society, and was one of its substantial supporters ever after. He was an earnest member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and after his death upon the reading of his will it was found that he had made a large bequest to the church, which still continues, although he has been dead a number of years. He was married in Camden, S. C., in 1825, to Miss Catherine Watson, by whom he became the father of the following children: James, a resident of Jefferson county, is unmarried; Mary Scott, is a resident of Port Gibson and is the wife of Benjamin Humphreys; Priscilla (deceased), was the wife of Job Routh, who comes of a wealthy family of Louisiana, of noble birth; Catherine (deceased) was the wife of Daniel Humphreys, also deceased; Jane, the wife of Samuel Montgomery, resides in Texas; Sarah is a resident of Port Gibson and is the widow of Dr. C. E. Buck, who was killed; Eva is the wife of Charles Kennard of Port Gibson; Ellen is also a resident of that place and is the wife of Captain Owens, a Kentuckian by birth; and Edward, who was killed during the Civil war in the second battle of Manassas. In his political views Mr. Jefferies was a democrat and he and his wife are now sleeping their last sleep in the old family cemetery, "Scroggy," in Claiborne county, Miss.

Robert T. Jennings was born in Yorkville, S. C., September 12, 1815, and is the eldest of a family of ten children. His father, Edmond Jennings, was twice married—first to Isabella Beatty, and the second time to Lucy Birchett, natives of South and North Carolina respectively. Edmond Jennings was born in North Carolina. He was a physician by profession, and was devoted to his practice. He also had some mercantile interests. He was a son of John and Elizabeth (Lanier) Jennings, natives of Virginia. His father was one of the most prominent men in Anson county, N. C., and at the time of his death had been sheriff for twenty-one years. Edmond Jennings died December 2, 1863, aged seventy-two years. The Jennings family is of English ancestry, and is descended from Charles Jennings, who, with his brother, Humphrey Jennings, emigrated to America and settled in Virginia. History says they were the brothers of William Jennings, who died in England in 1798, leaving an estate valued at \$90,000,000. Robert T. was reared in his native place, and received his education in the common schools. In 1836 he came to Yazoo county, and until the breaking out of the Civil war was engaged in mercantile pursuits. He was successful and had accumulated considerable wealth; this, of course, was lost through the ravages of war. In 1869 he went to New Orleans, and became purchasing agent for a large cotton factor. He remained there twenty-three years, and through some fortunate speculations retrieved his